

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1. (Currently amended) An assay device for detecting an analyte in a liquid sample, the assay device comprising: liquid transport means adapted to take up a liquid sample and conduct the liquid to an analyte detection region operable to provide a test signal indicative of the presence and/or amount of an analyte in the liquid sample; wherein the liquid transport means comprises a porous carrier in the form of

a nitrocellulose strip, the nitrocellulose strip being substantially opaque in a dry state and being translucent when contacted by the liquid sample, the nitrocellulose strip comprising an upper surface, a lower surface, and a line printed or deposited on the lower surface of the nitrocellulose strip;

wherein the sample signal generation means comprises a colored portion in the form of a line which is printed or otherwise formed or deposited on the nitrocellulose strip on the side which is not presented to a user, using an ink which does not penetrate through the nitrocellulose strip; such that the colored portion is overlaid by nitrocellulose which, when dry, is substantially opaque and which initially obscures at least part of the colored portion but which, when wet, becomes sufficiently translucent or transparent to allow the at least initially obscured part of the colored portion to become visible to a user in use, the liquid sample contacts and migrates along the nitrocellulose strip, and wherein the line is visible to a user when the nitrocellulose strip is translucent.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The assay device of claim [[2]] 1 wherein the ~~sample presence signal is in the form of a line~~ is oriented substantially parallel with the direction of flow of the liquid sample.

6-26. (Canceled)

27. (New) The assay device of claim 1, the nitrocellulose strip further comprising a labeling region and an analyte detection region downstream from the labeling region.
28. (New) The assay device of claim 27, wherein the labeling region comprises a mobilizable labeled binding agent.
29. (New) The assay device of claim 28, wherein the analyte detection region comprises an immobilized binding agent which binds the analyte.
30. (New) The assay device of claim 29, wherein when analyte is present in the sample, analyte binds to the mobilizable labeled binding agent and the immobilized binding agent to form a test signal in the analyte detection region of the nitrocellulose strip.
31. (New) The assay device of claim 30, wherein the line and the test signal form a symbol representative of a positive result in the presence of analyte.